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BISHOP AUCKLAND
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
FOR
1963

*With the Compliments
of
Dr. J. M. Hegarty*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

"THE ELMS"

SILVER STREET,

BISHOP AUCKLAND.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Chairman of Health Committee:

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Health Department Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

J. M. HEGARTY, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Part-time Medical Officer for the Urban District.

Assistant County (No. 9 Area) Medical Officer.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Officer

R. SNOWDON, M.A.P.H.I., M.INST.P.C., M.R.S.H.,
DIP. (HONS.) R.I.P.H.H., DIP. I.S.A.A.

Qualified Public Health Inspector; Meat and Other Foods
Inspector; Smoke Inspector and Shops Acts Inspector.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

E. A. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I.

Qualified Public Health Inspector; Meat and Other Foods
Inspector and Smoke Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

R. BARRASS, M.A.P.H.I., DIP. R.I.P.H.H. (Commenced 1-3-63)
Qualified Public Health Inspector and Meat and Other Foods
Inspector.

E. B. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced 1-9-63)

Qualified Public Health Inspector; Meat and Other Foods
Inspector and Smoke Inspector.

Clerk: T. K. CROSBY.

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Annual Report for 1963

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report for 1963.

The vital statistics which afford a means of comparison between the health of the district in the different years and with the rest of the country, show that the rates for your district compare very favourably with those of the previous years and with those for England and Wales.

The birth rate is the highest for many years. The death rate is about the same (two more deaths than last year). There was a total of 434. Of these just over half (220) were over seventy years. Of these 220 deaths, 123 died between seventy and eighty; 87 between eighty and ninety; and 10 were over ninety years of age.

Cancer of all parts of the body showed a decrease, but cancer of the lung and bronchus increased from 15 in 1962 to 18 (17 males and 1 female). It is still considered there is a connection between lung cancer and cigarette smoking — though it is not the whole answer.

There was an increase in the cardio-vascular deaths and also more deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis. There were 2 fewer deaths from accidents and 1 less suicide than in 1962.

There was not a maternal death this year and I am very pleased to be able to record there was not a single death from tuberculosis. This will be the first year this has ever happened, but there was the same number of notifications as last year.

Due to the re-organisation of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit and its transference to Middlesbrough, details of its operations in this area are not yet available.

24 notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received from the general hospital, but again there was no specific cause for which investigation was necessary.

Notifications of infectious diseases totalled 822 — Measles accounting for 644. There were 5 for Scarlet-Fever — this is the lowest we have ever had. There was a big increase in Whooping Cough notifications — 97 as against 3 last year. There were 9 cases of dysentery. There were no deaths recorded from any of these infections.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is almost halved in comparison with 1962. There were 14 deaths as against 27 last year and 18 in 1961. Of these 5 died before reaching eighteen hours; 4 before the age of one week; 2 at three months; 2 at five months; and 1 at six months. Of these 14 deaths 6 were due to prematurity, 3 to infection, 2 to abnormalities, 1 to birth injury, 1 to infection associated with birth injury and one to asphyxia due to inhalation of liquor. Twelve of these babies died in hospital.

No case of poliomyelitis or diphtheria was notified.

There was one case of typhoid in a girl of fifteen years. This was due to the same unusual type as our previous two outbreaks, so we knew it was not imported from outside the district. Two weeks before taking ill she had started work in a bakery in a neighbouring area, so we were very fortunate in ending with only one case. This implicated the neighbouring area and so it involved a good deal of extra work in both areas. We were fortunate in tracking down the carrier on this occasion and we are dealing with his circumstances. At the same time as we had the typhoid case we had a typhus contact. She remained well during supervision.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is carried out each year in the schools — the age limit this year was lowered to eleven years. The response was very good. Figures are quoted later in the report.

I would again like to acknowledge the excellent co-operation afforded by Head-Teachers in all the schools visited.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis continues to be satisfactory. The oral method being very acceptable. This is now offered in the schools as well as in clinics and General Practitioners' surgeries. This year vaccination against tetanus was incorporated with Diphtheria and offered to school children under ten years of age. There was a good response. We hope to do this each year in future offering it to the new entrants only.

The old people's welfare committee is functioning satisfactorily in giving a home visiting service and this year collaboration with the various voluntary organisations succeeded in providing a Christmas parcel for almost all the old people in the Bishop Auckland Area. Up till now some old people have received two or more gifts and some none.

During the year old people were visited when required and also on requests from them or their relatives and dealt with as necessary.

An hostel to give accommodation to 40 of our senior people (men, women and married couples) was opened in April by the Durham County Council. It is a delightful place with a very homely and free atmosphere. It very quickly filled and now there is quite a long waiting list.

Details of the home-help service are given later in the report.

In January the Council started a meals on wheels service for the more or less incapacitated senior citizens of Bishop Auckland, St. Helen's and West Auckland. The W.V.S. agreed to run the scheme and we are indebted to them for doing so. It started with twelve meals twice per week and very soon increased to twenty-four meals twice per week. Unfortunately we have not been able to expand it further.

Meals from neighbours were started about the middle of the year for the villages to which there is no chance at present of serving meals on wheels. The Red Cross Association are very kindly doing this. Though functioning it has never progressed to any great numbers owing to the difficulty of obtaining people to cook the meals.

The Conversion Scheme which started in 1962 was completed this year.

We are still left with a large number of earth closets in the district but when the various slum clearance areas are dealt with, this state of affairs will be vastly improved.

No new houses were erected by the Council in 1963 — consequently only twenty-five families were rehoused and our overcrowding and very bad housing conditions remained almost stationary. Re-lets provided a very limited number.

Requested visits for medical reasons considered due to the bad housing conditions took up a good deal of time.

Responsibility for the Public Toilets was transferred to the Health Department in July. Decorations were carried out and special attention given to cleanliness with very good results. The lighting was improved and although vandalism has taken place it is now less.

I would like to acknowledge once again the courtesy and consideration shown to me by my Council and to thank the staff of the Health Department for still another year's efficient work.

Area and Social Conditions

The Area of the district is 9,336 acres. The estimated population in mid-1963 was 35,330, a decrease of 80 on the previous year's estimate.

The rateable value at the end of 1963 was £916,641 and the product of a penny rate £3,450.

The number of houses according to the Council's rate book was, at the end of 1963, 11,498.

Vital Statistics

In the following extracts from the vital statistics of the district, the corrected figures as supplied by the Registrar General have been used and the rates quoted are based on the above-mentioned estimated population.

Live Births			Total	Males	Females
LEGITIMATE	..	..	618	320	298
ILLEGITIMATE	..	..	43	25	18
TOTAL			661	345	316

Comparability Factors: Births 1.01; Deaths 1.17; Standard Birth Rate 18.89. The corresponding rate for England and Wales is 18.2.

Births.

Rate per 1,000 live and still births; standard 19.09.

The total number of births was 668 : 349 Males and 319 Females.

Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births). 25 Males. 18 Females. 6.51 %

Still Births

Stillbirths			Total	Males	Females
LEGITIMATE	..	..	6	3	3
ILLEGITIMATE	..	..	1	1	—
TOTAL			7	4	3

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 10.58

For England and Wales the rate was 20.90

Total live and still births 668. Males 349. Females 319.

Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year) 14. Males 11. Females 3.

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births. 24.78.

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births. 24.61

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births. 27.20

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births. 15.93.

Legitimate. Males 7. Females 1.

Illegitimate Males 1. Females 0.

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births. 14.16.

Legitimate. Males 7. Females 1.

Illegitimate. Males 0. Females 0.

Perinatal Mortality Rate.

Still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births. 26.27.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion).

Number of deaths. Nil.

Deaths.

After correction for outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths a total of 434. (250 Males and 184 Females) deaths of residents were recorded during the year, giving a standard death rate of 14.37 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1963 was 12.20. Cardio-vascular diseases accounted for 166 of the total deaths.

The following table gives the number of deaths recorded from the various causes during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females	Total
Lung Cancer	17	1	18
Other Cancers	27	22	49
Leukaemia	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	41	34	75
Coronary disease, angina ..	64	37	101
Hypertension with heart disease	10	4	14
Other disease	15	23	38
Other circulatory diseases ..	10	3	13
Pneumonia	8	17	25
Bronchitis	19	2	21
Other respiratory diseases ..	2	1	3
Gastric or duodenal ulcer ..	2	3	5
Gastritis and enteritis	3	0	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Diabetes	0	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	2	2	4
Motor vehicle accidents	1	2	3
All other accidents	5	4	9
Suicide	1	3	4
Tuberculosis (all forms)	0	0	0
Influenza	3	1	4
Other infections	2	0	2
Pregnancy, childbirth	0	0	0
Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
Syphylitic diseases	1	0	1
All other causes than those specified	15	19	34
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTAL	250	184	434

The above information is based on information supplied by the Registrar General.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified and the deaths from the various infectious diseases (excluding tuberculosis) which occurred during 1963.

Disease	Total cases notified	Total number after corrected diagnosis	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	5	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	—
Pneumonia	19	19	1	25
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	24	24	24	—
Measles	666	664	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	98	97	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	9	9	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ..	1	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	1	1	—	—
	825	822	29	25

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows in arrangement by age groups, the number of new cases notified and of deaths from tuberculosis occurring in the district during the year.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1963	7	7	—	2	—	—	—	—
1962	9	6	1	—	4	—	1	—
1961	12	8	4	3	2	3	—	—
1960	3	4	3	1	2	2	—	—
1959	9	12	3	3	3	1	—	—
1958	16	8	4	1	3	2	2	—
1957	17	9	—	2	2	2	—	—
1956	5	14	2	2	1	1	—	—
1955	15	9	1	—	3	3	1	—
1954	13	7	2	1	7	5	—	—

Due to the number of houses available, only two tuberculous families were re-housed during the year.

Mass Miniature Radiography

Due to administrative charges in the control of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit details are not available.

WATER

The Durham County Water Board took 101 samples of treated water and seven samples of raw water during the year for bacteriological examination. All were reported satisfactory.

The Council in February recommended that the Durham County Water Board be informed that the Council was in favour of a fluoride content of 1 part per million being added to the water supply for Bishop Auckland.

West Mills water is the main supply to this area.

The Board maintains a fully equipped laboratory supervised by a qualified experienced chemist and bacteriologist.

The fluoride content is estimated at 0.8 parts per million, but does vary according to the flow of the river.

The following is the full chemical analysis.

Physical Characteristics

Appearance	..	..	..	..	Clear, colourless water
pH Value	..	..	..	..	7.0
Colour in A.P.H.A. units	..	..	..	..	2
Turbidity	..	..	..	..	Nil

Chemical Examination

Parts per Million

Free Acidity as CO_2	..	..	..	6
Free Alkalinity as CaCO_3	..	..	..	Nil
Total Alkalinity as CaCO_3	..	..	..	78
Hardness as CaCO_3	..	..	..
Carbonate Hardness	..	..	..	78
Non-Carbonate Hardness	..	..	..	44
Total Hardness	..	..	..	122
Chlorides as Cl.	..	..	..	16
Sulphates as SO_4	..	..	..	36
Aluminium as Al.	..	..	..	0
Iron as Fe	..	..	..	0.1
Manganese as Mn	..	..	..	Nil
Total Solids dried at 180°C}.	..	..	..	172
Other Tests:				
Ash (Mineral Matter)	..	..	..	104

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The situation at the Vinovium Sewage Disposal Works is substantially the same.

Investigations into the various methods of de-watering sludge have continued and schemes for conditioning the sludge both by heat treatment and chemicals prior to pressing are being drawn up.

The aerial nuisance is still considerable due to the air drying of crude sludge which is still being produced in quantities far exceeding the original cold digestion capacity. Further the tank effluents discharged to the bacteria beds contain a high percentage of suspended solids owing to the restricted sludge drying capacity and the consequent inability to cleanse the settling tanks as often as required.

The suspended solids being discharged in the final effluent to the river are still frequently in excess of the River Board's standard of thirty parts per million and no improvement can be expected until the proposed extensions are completed: a fact which can be readily understood when one realises that although primary settling and biological treatments were extended in 1951, no further sludge treatment capacity has been provided since 1939, during which time well over 2,300 houses have been built and about 3,095 conversions have been carried out.

The Vinovium works also treats sewage from Spennymoor and Shildon Urban Districts, and Barnard Castle Rural District.

The sewage works at Witton Park and Newfield are in much the same position as regards sludge treatment facilities.

SEWERAGE

The system continues to operate reasonably well in spite of the entrance of large amounts of grit. The schemes which had been approved were carried out. No further schemes are under consideration.

SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following children were treated during the year in their homes, doctors' surgeries, County clinics or Schools. 1,174 children received primary full courses of immunisation treatment. 886 children received 'booster' doses, either singly or in combination.

(b) Whooping Cough.

390 children were vaccinated against Whooping Cough, either singly or in combination.

The administration of combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria injections has naturally lowered the numbers of single injections against each disease alone.

191 'booster' doses were administered.

(c) **Smallpox Vaccination.**

375 primary vaccinations and 220 re-vaccinations were carried out during the year.

(d) **Poliomyelitis Vaccination**

The number of vaccinations carried out during the year was as follows:

474 received third vaccinations (Oral).

47 received one Oral after two injections.

60 received second injections.

54 received third injections.

4 received a fourth injection.

260 received one Oral after three Salk doses.

18 received one Oral after three Oral doses.

(e) **B.C.G. Vaccinations**

590 children were Heaf tested; 48 children were positive.

505 children were negative; 503 children were vaccinated.

These figures apply to children attending schools in the Bishop Auckland Urban District.

(f) **Tetanus Vaccinations.**

1,168 Primary. 160 Boosters.

(g) **Home Help Service.**

The services of a Home Help were supplied to 269 households.

MEAT INSPECTION

For the first time since Records have been kept not one case of Tuberculosis was detected during 1963 in either cattle or cows.

This disease has not however been eliminated in all the food animals because 66 cases were found amongst pigs — though this is a reduction of 14 over 1962.

The decline can be seen by the following comparative table:

% affected	1953	1958	1963
Cattle	11	3.9	—
Cows	21.5	4.9	—
Pigs	3.01	1.9	1.98

The incidence of Cysticercosis fluctuates. This year there was a decrease in the number of cases detected following last year's increase.

Again there was a decrease in the percentage of meat and offal condemned due to diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis. This fall was from 38.48% in cattle and 24.77% in cows in 1962 to 24.47% and 20.12% in cattle and cows respectively this year.

In 1963 the carcasses and organs of 10,747 animals were inspected during the course of 983 visits to slaughter houses.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Slaughtered ..	2582	323	89	4427	3326
Number Inspected ..	2582	323	89	4427	3326
TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Parts of Carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	66
Percentage condemned ..	—	—	—	—	1.98
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Parts of carcasses condemned	19	—	—	—	—
No. of carcasses refrigerated	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage condemned ..	0.74	—	—	—	—
OTHER DISEASES					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	—
Parts of carcasses condemned	632	65	1	108	258
Percentage condemned ..	24.47	20.12	1.12	2.48	7.76

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963

These regulations came into force on 1st October 1963, and included in the provisions was the power for local authorities to make a charge for meat inspection.

This Council decided to apply the maximum rates viz:—

2/6d. per bovine animal.

9d. per calf or pig.

6d. per sheep, lamb or goat.

All carcasses which have been inspected, whether found fit for human consumption or not, are equally liable to the charges applied.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOOD

The following is the quantity of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered by the Trades:

654 tins Meat	765 tins Vegetables
856 tins Fruit	165 tins Soup
41 tins Fish	103 tins Milk
44 tins Rice	5 tins Sago
4 tins Cream	32 tins Chicken
51 packets Biscuits	230 Packets Frozen Foods
24 Chicken Croquettes	20 Stones Parsnips
2 Stones Kippers	7 lb. Haddock Roes
$\frac{1}{2}$ Stone Small Fish	56 lb. Pork
Fillets	46 lb. Roast Pork
28 lb. 9 oz. Ham	
656 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Bacon	

ICE CREAM

Twenty samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Newcastle. The samples were graded, and are shown below in relation to previous years.

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	Total
Grade 1.	8	3	2	11	24	10	58
Grade 2.	4	2	6	4	8	6	30
Grade 3.	6	1	3	12	4	1	27
Grade 4.	12	1	4	11	8	3	39
TOTALS	30	7	15	38	44	20	154

MILK

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1960

Milk is sampled throughout the County by the Staff of the County Health Department. The numbers taken and results relating to Bishop Auckland Urban District are as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk

17 Samples — 4 failed the Methylene Blue Test.

Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk

59 Samples — 2 failed the Methylene Blue Test.

Pasteurised Milk

42 Samples — 5 failed the Methylene Blue Test.

During the year four of the samples were submitted for Biological Test — to indicate the presence of Tuberculosis and Brucella Abortus. All were negative.

FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to Health

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Pros- ecutions (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	13	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	107	6	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).. .. .	10	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	135	19	6	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more 'cases')

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosec's were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ..	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	2	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ..	4	3	—	2	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	6	—	4	—

HOUSING

(a) Clearance Areas.

Following representations from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1962 to increase the numbers of houses represented as unfit, efforts were concentrated in this direction with the result that in 1963 more than double the number of 1962 houses were so represented.

During the year sixteen Clearance Areas were submitted to the Council for subsequent submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation. The Areas were:—

Area	Number of Houses
South Church (General)	126
West Mills, Bishop Auckland	5
West Auckland Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 ..	72
Low Escomb Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	56
George Street East, Coundon	20
George Street West, Coundon	22
William Street, Coundon	40
Gurlish Terrace, Coundon	24
Edward Terrace, St. Helen's	7
Front Street, St. Helen's	11
Leazes Terrace, St. Helen's	12
Peases Street, St. Helen's	18
Whitwell Terrace, St. Helen's	18

A TOTAL OF 431 HOUSES

(b) Individual Orders.

Orders were made against the following houses during 1963:

House	Order
18, Westerton Village, Westerton ..	Demolition
36, Low Albion Street, Witton Park ..	Closing
41, Darlington Road, West Auckland ..	Demolition
42, Darlington Road, West Auckland ..	Demolition
43, Darlington Road, West Auckland ..	Demolition
44, Darlington Road, West Auckland ..	Demolition
7, Preston Street, South Church	Demolition
1, Crown Yard, South Church	Closing
11, Quarry Houses, Westerton	Closing
1, Canny Hill Lane End Cottages	Demolition
Three Lane Ends, Escomb	Closing
1, St. Andrew's Place, Bishop Auckland ..	Demolition
1a, St. Andrew's Place, Bishop Auckland ..	Closing
12, Brook Street, Coundon Grange	Closing
79, Woodside, Witton Park	Closing

A TOTAL OF 15 HOUSES

A further 13 houses were represented to the Health Committee, but orders had not been made by the end of the year:

- 13, Grange Hill, Auckland Park.
- 14, Grange Hill, Auckland Park.
- 15, Grange Hill, Auckland Park.
- 16, Grange Hill, Auckland Park.
- 17, Grange Hill, Auckland Park.
- 18, Grange Hill, Auckland Park.
- 13, Auckland Road, South Church.
- 1, Railway Cottages, Etherley Dene.
- 2, Railway Cottages, Etherley Dene.
- 3, Railway Cottages, Etherley Dene.
- 4, Railway Cottages, Etherley Dene.
- 8, Lockey's Yard, West Auckland.
- Whitehouse Cottage, Tindale Crescent.

Altogether 459 houses were represented either collectively or individually as being unfit — as against 204 in 1962.

(c) **General**

1. **WORK ON HOUSES — PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS**

Houses found to be defective in repair	133
Number of Informal Notices served	133
No. of Formal Notices served	65
Number of Notices complied with	107

2. **RENT ACT**

No. of Applications for Certificate of Disrepair ..	2
Number of decisions to issue Certificate ..	2
Number of undertakings received from landlords ..	2
Number of Certificates of Repair cancelled ..	1

(d) **Houses which were unfit but defects remedied in 1963**

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS	By Owner	By Local Authority
(a) After informal actions by Local Authority ..	61	—
(b) After formal action by Local Authority ..	40	7
HOUSING ACTS		
(a) After informal action by Local Authority ..	—	—
(b) After formal action by Local Authority ..	—	—

(e) **Houses demolished**

IN CLEARANCE AREAS	Demolished or Closed	Rehousing Persons	Families
Houses unfit for habitation	10	87	26
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
Action under Section 17 (1) 1957 Housing Act ..	8	4	3
UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED			
Action under Sections 16 (4) and 17 (1) Housing Act 1957	5	20	3
TOTAL	23	111	32

(f) **Inspections**

(a) Under Public Health, Housing and Rent Acts ..	2,569
(b) Under House Purchase and Housing Act ..	188
TOTAL ..	2,757

(g) **New Houses**

In 1963 a total of 77 new houses or flats were provided in the Urban District — a decrease of 52 in 1962, and *not one* new dwelling provided by the Urban Council.

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Built by Council	76	124	58	84	61	63	—
Built by Private							
Enterprise	33	25	31	30	18	56	63
Built by Durham C.C.	7	5	15	—	—	8	3
Converted into flats	3	2	3	—	—	2	11
Converted from other premises	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	119	157	107	114	80	129	77

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

(a) **STANDARD GRANTS**

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor deals with all applications which are granted subject to a Certificate of Fitness from the Chief Public Health Inspector.

(a)	Number of applications submitted in 1963..	63
(b)	Number of applications rejected	5
(c)	Total number of applications approved since inception	280
(d)	Total number of Grants paid since inception ..	221

(b) DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

(a)	Number of applications submitted in 1963..	30
(b)	Number of applications rejected	1
(c)	Total number of applications approved since inception	92
(d)	Total number of grants paid since inception ..	54

(c) IMPROVEMENT AREA

Circular 42/62 issued by the Minister of Housing and Local Government informed local authorities that if any impact was to be made in the improvement of houses, then it must be tackled street by street — area by area.

Following a report by the Chief Public Health Inspector the Committee declared Improvement Area No. 1. This contained 37 houses in three terraces at South Church, viz. 1-9 Appleby Street; 1-21 Hillbeck Street and 1-7 Westward Road.

Housing Statistics

1. NUMBER ON WAITING LISTS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1963

		Tenants	Sub. Tenants	Total
(a)	General Waiting List ..	287	64	351
	Aged Persons Waiting List	221	15	236
	TOTALS ..	508	79	587

2. NUMBER OF FAMILIES RE-HOUSED

(a)	In New Dwellings	
	Slum Clearance	Nil
	Key Workers	Nil
	Aged Persons' List	Nil
	General List	Nil
(b)	IN RE-LETS OF EXISTING ACCOMMODATION	
	Slum Clearance	33
	Key Workers	8
	Aged Persons' List	10
	General List	43
		94

TOTAL FAMILIES RE-HOUSED 94

3. RE-HOUSING — FAMILIES SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Although the Council decided in February to re-house four cases every six months — only two families were in fact re-housed in 1963.

4. OVERCROWDED FAMILIES

Of the total of 94 families re-housed during the year 1st January, 1963 to 31st December, 1963 the following were living in overcrowded conditions:—

Points Scheme — i.e. lack of adequate bedroom accommodation 54 of which 41 were statutorily overcrowded.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMARY

PARTICULARS	Number of Inspections	Number of Informal Notices Served	Number of Formal Notices Served	Defects Remedied after Notice
Public Health and Housing Acts	2502	74	40	51
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	23	14	10	13
Drainage	196	18	11	18
Water Supply	4	-	-	-
Food Premises	284	40	-	-
Shops Act.. .. .	22	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses	983	-	-	-
Moveable Dwellings	10	3	1	3
Factories	19	6	-	5
Keeping of Animals	3	-	-	-
Insanitary Ashclosets	16	11	2	10
Offensive Accumulations	11	4	1	4
Smoke nuisances	23	3	-	3
Pests Acts	105	-	-	-
Market	69	-	-	-
Licensing Act	38	-	-	-
Conversions	43	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	666	-	-	-
TOTALS	5205	173	65	107

CONVERSIONS TO WATER CARRIAGE

In 1963 a total of 95 ashclosets were converted to the water carriage system. At the end of the year due to conversions, demolitions, erection of new houses and improvement of older houses, the various types of sanitary conveniences in the Urban District were as follows:

Water Closets	..	..	..	12,310
Ashclosets..	..	..	..	852
Ashpits and Privies	..	..	..	81

Over the period of ten years commencing 1954, a total of 2,061 conversions have been carried out:

CONVERSIONS			
YEAR	OWNERS	LOCAL AUTHORITY	TOTAL
1954	110	317	427
1955	117	34	151
1956	115	232	347
1957	57	188	245
1958	70	271	341
1959	61	92	153
1960	59	—	59
1961	42	—	42
1962	40	161	201
1963	16	79	95
TOTALS	687	1374	2061

RODENT CONTROL

This service is free to householders, but a charge of 10/- per hour (which includes materials used and travelling expenses) is made for other premises.

During the year 156 requests for treatment were received, 37 of which came from business premises. From the latter charges there was an income of £105 14s. 6d.

The following table shows the work carried out in 1963:

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL				AGRI- CULTURAL (5)
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All Other (including Business Premises) (3)	Columns Total of 1, 2 and 3 (4)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's district ..	61	11,503	2,283	13,847	91
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification ..	8	103	41	152	3
Number of such properties found to be infested by:	8	8	20	36	3
Common rat ..	-	81	11	92	-
Ship Rat ..	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse ..	-	-	-	-	-
..	-	14	10	24	-
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act ..	6	16	5	27	-
Number of such properties found to be infested by:	6	-	-	6	-
Common Rat ..	-	12	5	17	-
Ship Rat ..	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse ..	-	-	-	-	-
..	-	-	-	-	-

TYPE OF PROPERTY (continued)

4. Total number of properties otherwise inspected, e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose ..	1	1	2	4	—
Number of such properties found to be infested by:					
Common rat	1	—	—	1	—
Ship Rat	—	1	2	3	—
House Mouse	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—
5. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections	72	512	231	815	21
6. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	15	120	48	183	3
7. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments	8	109	36	153	3
8. Number notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work i.e. Proofing	—	16	4	20	—
9. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
10. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
11. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ..	Sixteen				

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

ON PUBLIC CLEANSING

Once again I have pleasure in submitting this report on the work carried out by the personnel of the Cleansing Department, and to record sincere appreciation of the hard work and loyal support given by the staff which have really made this report possible.

In the widespread and complex field of local government not one facet is unimportant — some are merely less important than others. Public Cleansing must surely rank as one of the vital services in any community. Its success is measured by several factors including relative lack of complaints, statistical improvement, economics, etc.

Refuse is collected from more than half a million premises each year and the number of complaints received, e.g. missed bins, is usually less than 50 — insignificant in number but not in importance.

Statistically 1963 has reached a new peak. Salvage baled was the highest for many years, and income received also the highest — at almost £3,000.

Economically the refuse is collected (and disposed of) at a cost of about 8d. per premises per week.

Considering the very hard winter experienced at the beginning of the year we were extremely fortunate in having so low a sickness rate in January and February, and tribute must be paid to the refuse collectors for hard work under difficult and arduous conditions.

Each year is approached with the enthusiasm of optimism born of the belief that it will be even better than the last. We desire to improve yet consolidate our gains; to develop new thoughts by forgetting past frustrations which may have prevented hoped for achievements.

1963 has been more than a consolidation — it has been an improvement optimistically realised.

House Refuse and Trade Refuse

(a) **Collection** — the service has been weekly in most cases, more frequent in others.

During the year 9,379 loads of refuse were collected — roughly the same number as in 1962. The average density however has dropped from 6.3 cwts. per cu. yd. to 5.29 cwts. per cu. yd. This reduction merely emphasises locally what has been a national trend.

Approximately 2% of all loads were weighed giving an indicated weight of 15,558 tons — a drop of about 260 tons on 1962.

- (b) **Disposal** — Three refuse tips were again used, viz at Witton Park, Newfield and Gurney Valley. It is at the latter tip where 90% of all refuse is tipped.

In 1963 a larger and more useful earth moving machine was purchased for the work of controlled tipping at Gurney Valley. This machine, an Allis-Chalmers tracked vehicle, with 4 in 1 bucket, has proved its worth in this field of operation — the results being easily and readily seen.

Salvage.

690 loads of salvageable material were collected — principally from commercial premises. The indicated weight was approximately 260 tons, and of this just over 196 tons were baled, despite a restricted quota, sent to the Thames Board Mills.

Again we were unable to dispose of newspapers to the Mills, and sorting and baling was confined to two grades — fibreboard and mixed waste.

As shown in a later table the despatch of 196 tons of paper and cardboard represents the highest quantity for at least seven years, and shows the steady progress made in this field.

Salvage is merely a pseudonym for refuse which has a sale potential, and as this material must be collected anyway, its collection cost is really part of the general cleansing costs. The income, less baling and loading costs, represents a useful relief to the overall expenditure.

Despatch of Salvage

Date	No. of Bales	Grade	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
10/1/63	137	Mixed Paper	10	14	2
	30	Fibreboard	2	10	2
30/1/63	132	Mixed Paper	10	8	—
	30	Fibreboard	2	8	—
28/2/63	150	Mixed Paper	11	13	—
	30	Fibreboard	2	12	—
5/4/63	150	Mixed Paper	12	9	—
	30	Fibreboard	2	13	—
2/5/63	150	Mixed Paper	12	1	3
	30	Fibreboard	2	11	—
30/5/63	150	Mixed Paper	11	19	—
	30	Fibreboard	2	11	—

27/6/63	150	Mixed Paper	..	13	3	-
	30	Fibreboard	..	2	13	-
11/7/63	150	Mixed Paper	..	12	19	-
	30	Fibreboard	..	2	3	-
1/8/63	150	Mixed Paper	..	11	9	-
	30	Fibreboard	..	2	6	-
10/9/63	150	Mixed Paper	..	10	19	-
	30	Fibreboard	..	2	8	-
26/9/63	150	Mixed Paper	..	11	11	-
	30	Fibreboard	..	2	8	-
24/10/63	150	Mixed Paper	..	11	6	-
	30	Fibreboard	..	2	8	-
21/11/63	150	Mixed Paper	..	10	12	-
	30	Fibreboard	..	2	10	-
5/12/63	150	Mixed Paper	..	10	16	-
	30	Fibreboard	..	2	8	-
TOTAL				196	9	3

Paper Tonnage.

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
1957	..	..	40	0	0
1958	..	..	51	9	0
1959	..	..	73	2	0
1960	..	..	168	14	0
1961	..	..	170	6	1
1962	..	..	159	17	0
1963	..	..	196	9	3

Income.

Income from waste paper and cardboard, trade refuse and scrap was, once again, the highest ever — being £2,731 15s. 4d.

Most of the trade refuse collected was by way of general agreements for regular collection which amounted to £1,105 13s. 1d. Seventeen requests were made for a casual service (charged on man/vehicle/hour basis) and these yielded an income of £50 15s. 0d.

Together with the £200 paid each year, since 1958, by a Contractor working on Gurney Valley Tip, the income for the years 1957-1963 is

£12,473 8s. 11d.

Year	Paper Sales	Trade Refuse	Scrap	Total
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1957	290 12 6	122 7 10	41 15 0	454 15 4
1958	318 3 9	261 1 3	21 14 6	600 19 6
1959	633 7 6	399 16 0	9 0 0	1,042 3 6
1960	1,133 8 0	656 13 0	8 1 0	1,798 2 0
1961	1,128 14 6	1,015 5 0	104 13 0	2,248 12 6
1962	1,359 7 9	1,034 9 0	3 4 0	2,397 0 9
1963	1,575 7 3	1,156 8 1	—	2,731 15 4
Totals	£6,439 14 0	£4,646 0 2	£188 7 6	£11,273 8 11

Vehicles.

No new vehicle for refuse collection was purchased during 1963.

All the refuse vehicles are greased and washed weekly, and attention is paid to regular maintenance and overhaul.

Public Conveniences.

Following complaints about the condition of public conveniences in the Urban District the control of these buildings was transferred to the Health Department late in the year. After a Report to the Health Committee, it was decided, *inter alia*, to introduce free washing facilities (where available) and, apart from a general clean up and repair, to have all conveniences re-decorated.

Most of the improvements had been carried out by the end of the year.

Staff.

The following table shows time lost due to sickness, absenteeism and holidays in 1963.

Month	Sickness	Absent	Holidays	Total
January ..	16	4	4	24
February ..	25	—	1	26
March ..	31	—	5	36
April ..	13	—	20	33
May ..	1	21	37	59
June ..	5	—	33	38
July ..	13	7	63	83
August ..	10	1	64	75
September ..	20	1	44	65
October ..	35	1	46	82
November ..	20	1	7	28
December ..	1	2	—	3
TOTALS ..	190	38	324	552

Time lost from all causes represented 8.7% of the working time available.

The following table compares time lost due to sickness in 1963 with the preceding 6 years.

NUMBER OF DAYS LOST DUE TO SICKNESS							
Month	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
January ..	72	82	5	31	20	35	16
February ..	35	89	56	54	84	109	25
March ..	47	53	37	15	31	54	31
April ..	44	35	54	13	48	60	13
May ..	17	16	47	21	42	88	1
June ..	2	29	7	—	50	41	5
July ..	5	10	5	—	31	37	13
August ..	14	41	21	11	11	27	10
September	82	85	46	53	10	22	20
October ..	32	45	14	40	15	45	35
November	17	2	—	65	18	11	20
December	25	2	43	37	22	3	1
TOTALS ..	392	489	335	340	382	532	190

Time lost due to sickness and absenteeism was 228 days.

This is compared as a percentage with previous years.

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Time Lost %	6.05	7.63	5.78	5.94	6.3	8.57	3.46

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M.R.S.H., DIP. (HONS.) R.I.P.H.H.

DIP I.S.A.A.

APPENDIX

Comparisons in Vital Statistics during the years 1954-1963

VITAL STATISTICS	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Crude Birth Rate	18.3	17.6	17.3	18.6	20.2		17.6	17.0	18.0	18.9
Standard Birth Rate	..	..	..	17.8	19.4	16.8				
Crude Death Rate	11.6	11.0	11.6	11.4	12.5	12.8	13.7	14.4	14.2	14.4
Standard Death Rate	..	..	..	13.5	14.7					
Crude Infant Mortality Rate	35.1	38.5	30.6	35.1	22.4	26.2	43.2	35.2	47.0	24.8
Standard Infant Mortality Rate	..	..	..	41.4	24.0					

TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES NOTIFIED	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Pulmonary Cases	20	24	19	26	24	21	7	20	15	14
Non-Pulmonary Cases	3	1	4	2	5	6	4	7	1	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES — Notifications and Deaths
(excluding Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning)

	1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963	
	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	2	1	8	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	17	—	36	—	—	—	10	—	14	—	17	—	12	—	1	—	—	—	9	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ..	3	—	3	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	258	—	139	—	581	—	426	—	130	—	776	—	309	—	639	—	127	1	664	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Pneumonia ..	34	18	59	20	46	19	92	12	46	8	35	26	19	13	30	17	24	16	19	25
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	20	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	10	—	32	—	39	—	24	—
Scarlet Fever ..	44	—	16	—	68	—	25	—	33	—	35	—	15	—	20	—	9	—	5	—
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	219	—	126	—	159	1	232	—	158	—	106	—	67	—	57	—	3	—	97	—
Acute Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
TOTALS	597	18	389	21	867	20	797	14	386	8	971	27	434	13	781	17	205	17	821	25

SUMMARY OF DEATHS BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS — 1963

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS								75 and over
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ..	M	250	8	3	-	-	2	2	6	21	55	69	84
	F	184	1	2	1	1	2	3	9	13	27	44	81

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